**What is the ACTIVE VOICE?**

• In active voice sentences the subject does the action.

Example: Liz played the piano.

**What is the PASSIVE VOICE?**

• In passive voice sentences the subject receives the action.

Example: The piano was played by Liz.

**What is the difference?**

- The sentence that uses the active voice is stronger, uses fewer words, and clearly shows who performs the action.

- The sentence that uses the passive voice is weaker and less direct. It is, however, not incorrect to use the passive voice.

• Sometimes the doer of the action is omitted in passive voice sentences.

Example: The piano was played.

*Directions: Decide whether the following sentences are written in the active or passive voice. Then write the doer of the action on the line to the right. If the doer is unknown, write a question mark (?).*

Example: 1) Thomas feeds his dog. active / passive \_Thomas\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2) The dog is fed by Thomas. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3) The family went to the beach. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4) The letter was written by Marshall. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5) The game had been won by the blue team. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6) The problem was solved. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7)The stunt man risked his life. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8) The fire was extinguished. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9)The car was being cleaned by its owner. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10) It gets cold here during the winter. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Directions: Rewrite the passive voice sentences as active voice sentences.***

Passive: The dog was hit by the car.

Active: The car hit the dog.

Passive: The house will be built by the construction crew in five months.

Active: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passive: She was treated in the hospital by a nurse.

Active: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Directions: Rewrite the active voice sentences as passive voice sentences.***

Active: Julie answered the question.

Passive: The question was answered by Julie

Active: The dolphins have learned many tricks.

Passive: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Active: The doctor told her that she was pregnant.

Passive: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Directions: Write one sentence using the active voice, and one using the passive voice.***

Active: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passive: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_